GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:18
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural produce in which the country is deficient and are importing them to cater the requirement of the people of the country;

(b) the time since when the country is deficient in those produces;

(c) the steps taken to achieve self-sufficiency therein during the last three-years and the success achieved so far;

(d) whether the Government propose to make the palm oilseed cultivation remunerative to motivate farmers to take up that new crop;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to review the National Pulses DevelopmentProject to increase the production of pulses to check frequent import thereof; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The production of edible oils and pulses has been fluctuating due to vagaries of monsoon. The country achieved near self sufficiency in 1998-1999 in oil seed production. However, there was a decline in production of oil seed in the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 due to drought conditions in major oil seed producing States. So far as pulses are concerned, there has been a gap between demand and domestic production for a long time. This is due to the fact that pulses are grown in rainfed areas and on marginal and sub-marginal land.

(c) to (e): In order to increase the production, the following Centrally SponsoredSchemes are being implemented under the ambit of Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation:-

(i) Oilseed Production Programme (OPP)

(ii) National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)

(iii) Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP)

The efforts are being made to increase the production of oilseeds/edible oils and pulses under the above centrally sponsored schemes by way of providing incentives to the farmers growing oilseeds, oilpalm and pulses in the country. Assistance is provided on production and distribution of seeds, seed minikits, improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, gypsum/pyrites, micro nutrients, rhyzobium culture etc.

Under the scheme of OPDP, assistance is provided to the farmers on the plantingmaterial, cultivation, inputs and installation of drip irrigation system. A new component for providing subsidy to oil palm farmers for installing diesel pump sets has also been introduced under OPDP w.e.f. 8.2.2000.

There has been an increase in area coverage, productivity and production in case of oil seeds. There has been an increase of productivity and production in case of pulses.

In order to provide remunerative prices to the farmers the Government isimplementing a Market Support Scheme through NAFED

being the Central Nodal Agencyfor price support operation of various oilseeds except oil palm. For the procurement oil palm fresh fruit bunches (FFB) the Government of India is implementing marketIntervention Scheme (MIS) to provide reasonable price to the Oil Palm growers. Besides, to reduce the adverse effect of import of edible oil on domestic prices of edible oils and to protect the interest of oilseeds, oil palm and coconut growers. Government has increased the import duty on various categories of edible oils from 1.4.2001.

(f)&(g): The Expert Committee on Pulses has already reviewed the Scheme ofNational Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and the recommendations of Expert Committee on Pulses have already been incorporated in the revised scheme during the Ninth Plan w.e.f. 2000-01.